GENERAL ORDERS

No. 21

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY Washington, DC, 23 April 1970

AWARD OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR







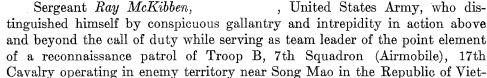


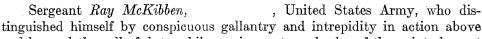


By direction of the President, under the Joint Resolution of Congress approved 12 July 1862 (amended by act of 3 March 1863, act of 9 July 1918 and act of 25 July 1963), the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty is awarded posthumously by the Department of the Army in the name of Congress to:

nam on 6 December 1968. Sergeant McKibben was leading his point element in a movement to contact along a well-traveled trail when the lead element



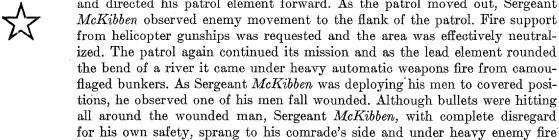






came under heavy automatic weapons fire from a fortified bunker position, forcing the patrol to take cover. Sergeant McKibben, appraising the situation and without regard for his own safety, charged through bamboo and heavy brush to the fortified position, killed the enemy gunner, secured the weapon, and directed his patrol element forward. As the patrol moved out, Sergeant



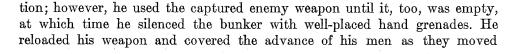






pinned down and were unable to deliver effective fire against the enemy bunkers, again undertook a singlehanded assault of the enemy defenses. He charged through the brush and hail of automatic weapons fire closing on the first bunker, killing the enemy with accurate rifle fire and securing the enemy's weapon. He continued his assault against the next bunker, firing his rifle as

pulled him to safety behind the cover of a rock emplacement where he administered hasty first aid. Sergeant McKibben, seeing that his comrades were



he charged. As he approached the second bunker his rifle ran out of ammuni-











forward. Observing the fire of another bunker impeding the patrol's advance, Sergeant McKibben again singlehandedly assaulted the new position. As he neared the bunker he was mortally wounded but was able to fire a final burst from his weapon killing the enemy and enabling the patrol to continue the assault. Sergeant McKibben's indomitable courage, extraordinary heroism, profound concern for the welfare of his fellow soldiers and disregard for his own personal safety saved the lives of his comrades and enabled the patrol to accomplish its mission. Sergeant McKibben's conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the cost of his life above and beyond the call of duty are in the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

W. C. WESTMORELAND, General, United States Army, Chief of Staff.

Official:

KENNETH G. WICKHAM, Major General, United States Army, The Adjutant General.

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